



**Cultural Affairs Commission
Meeting**

January 14, 2014

**Cultural Affairs Arts Center
(SPACE)**

6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Present: Darren Bagley-Heath, Cynthia Chambliss, Lisa Clark, Raymond Gaddy, Dawn Howard, Kim Manigault, Megan Manly, April Martin, Harriet Meyerhoff, Joyce Piersanti, Rene Teran, Lisa White

Eileen Baker, Director
Legina Jackson, Administrative Assistant
Crystal Northcutt, Contract Coordinator

Absent: Johnathon Barrett, Gretta Brannigan, Larry Dane-Kellogg, Deborah Glenn, Martha Massey, Spencer White III

I. Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m. by Raymond Gaddy, Chair. Motion to accept the minutes of September 10, 2013 was made and seconded. Motion carried.

II. Announcements

Commission Chair Gaddy announced that there was a newly appointed Commissioner, Johnathon Barrett.



III. Assigned Agency Program Evaluation Report

- a. #People –
- b. Demographics of audience –
- c. Logistics of technical, marketing –
- d. Quality of event, levels of engagement, educational benefits –

TELFAIR MUSEUM OF ART

January 25 – December 17

Art in Focus/Art for All

EVALUATORS: **Gretta Brannigan, Larry Dane-Kellogg, April Martin, Harriet Meyerhoff**

Commission Chair Gaddy referred to November's agenda since the events were not discussed at the last meeting due to no quorum. He attended the September 23 event, Tibetan Monks Opening Ceremony. He said the venue was filled to capacity. Commission Chair Gaddy stated that the people were very enthusiastically engaged and excited.

WEST BROAD STREET YMCA

February 1 – December 26

Loop It Up Savannah

EVALUATORS: **Raymond Gaddy, Megan Manly, Joyce Piersanti, Rene Teran**

Commissioner Piersanti attended several events. She said that the activities are amazing and she loves the programs that are offered. Commissioner Piersanti added that the children seemed happy and engaged.

Commissioner Meyerhoff commented that she was impressed with the program also. She said she was also impressed with the volunteers, which she felt are engaged and active.

Commissioner Manly added that Molly Lieberman, Project Director, is good about introducing her when she attends events. She said it is great that Ms. Lieberman recognizes and appreciates the support. Commissioner Manly also said that Ms. Lieberman has a great presence in the community.



LIVE OAK PUBLIC LIBRARIES

April 1 – November 16

Savannah Children's Book Festival

EVALUATORS: Cynthia Chambliss, Lisa Clark, Larry Dane-Kellogg, Harriet Meyerhoff

Commissioner Piersanti attended. She commented that the Savannah Children's Book Festival was a wonderful event. According to Commissioner Piersanti, there were thousands of children at the event.

Commissioner Clark also attended. She felt that the event was very impressive. Commissioner Clark said the children present were very excited and active. She added that the crowd was very diverse. She noted that the food section was on the main entrance, like a focal point. Commissioner Clark said that area was very congested.

Commission Chair Gaddy also attended. He commented that the location of certain stages and sections could have been organized differently to allow the crowd to flow more easily.

COASTAL JAZZ ASSOCIATION

September 22 – 28

32nd Savannah Jazz Festival

EVALUATORS: Gretta Brannigan, Cynthia Chambliss, Spencer White III

Commission Chair Gaddy attended the Velvet Caravan at Habersham Village Shops. He reported that the event was well attended.

Commissioner Bagley-Heath attended the Jazz Festival at Forsyth Park. He said the event was great every night and all the acts were fantastic. Commissioner Bagley-Heath reported that there was a broad age range of the attendees from all economic groups.


DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

October 6

Picnic in the Park

EVALUATORS: Raymond Gaddy, Dawn Howard, April Martin

Commission Chair Gaddy attended. He commented that the Savannah Philharmonic's performance at the event was well received. Commission Chair Gaddy noted that the crowd size was very large.



Commissioner Piersanti also attended. She suggested the Commission promote going to the rehearsal of the band performance, because she said it was amazing.

Commissioner Teran commented that he has always been a huge fan of the event, but his only qualm with the event is that it could improve in achieving its goal of raising awareness to the arts.

Commission Chair Gaddy added that he feels once performances are booked for Picnic in the Park, people will come back every year. People will find that genre of music they like and come out to support the event.

October 27
WEAVE-A-DREAM
Morningstar Cultural Arts Group

Commissioner Martin attended Klezmer in the Park on October 27 at Forsyth Park. She reported that the music group was great and energetic. Commissioner Martin said the crowd was diverse and that it was a captive audience. She added that the City's support was acknowledged.

November 1
Desotorow Gallery, Inc.

Commissioner Martin attended the First Friday Art March. She said the crowd size was large. According to Commissioner Martin, it was not a diverse group of people in attendance. She feels that the program has a lot of growth potential.

November 22
Savannah Dance Theater

Commissioner Martin attended the Nutcracker in Savannah: School Matinee Performance. She said it was a great production. Commissioner Martin noted that the venue was almost filled to capacity. She noted that Savannah Dance Theater involved many school age children, including children with no experience in dance or theater. She also mentioned that the Weave-A-Dream grant is what provided transportation for the school children to get to the theater.



IV. Weave-A-Dream Committee Report – April Martin

Vice Chair Martin reported that the Weave-A-Dream Committee awarded four grants in 2013, with a total of 13 services. Regarding attendance figures, there were 2,347 people that attended the Weave-A-Dream events. There was \$11,500 spent. The Weave-A-Dream account balance is \$2,843, which will be transferred to next year's Weave-A-Dream grant.

V. Chairperson's Report – Raymond Gaddy

Commission Chair Gaddy encouraged the Commissioners to attend as many events as they could.

VI. Director's Report – Eileen Baker

Ms. Baker had nothing to report.

VII. Contract Coordinator's Report – Crystal Northcutt

Ms. Northcutt directed the Commission to the agenda packets of the cultural contributions budget. She discussed the amount awarded to the budget and the breakdown among the organizations funded. Ms. Northcutt also informed the Commission of the revised evaluation forms which were distributed. She added that Cultural Affairs Staff is in the process of meeting with organizations regarding their performance contracts for 2014, which the assigned evaluators are invited to also. Ms. Northcutt informed the Commission that she would send them the contract once it has been developed and signed.

VIII. Upcoming Cultural Events

- Telfair Museum of Art – Access Art – January 4 – December 7
- West Broad Street YMCA – Loop It Up Savannah – January 6 – December 19
- Coastal Jazz Association – Big Band Concert Series – January 14 – April 27
- DEEP Center, Inc. – Young Author Project – January 28 – December 19
- Savannah Philharmonic – January 30 – December 19
- Savannah State University – Savannah Black Heritage Festival – February 1 – 23
- Savannah Coastal Puppetry Guild – Showtime for Seniors – February 11 – 20
- Next Commission Meeting – March 11 at 6 p.m.



Meeting Adjourned
6:42 p.m.